

## John Kline Statement on Sec. Shinseki

Washington, May 30

BURNSVILLE – Minnesota Congressman John Kline issued the following statement today after Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric Shinseki submitted his resignation:

*“General Shinseki is a decorated Vietnam veteran and I appreciate his service to our country, but the entire leadership of the VA must be held accountable which is why I have said for nearly two weeks his resignation was a necessary first step. This morning, I spoke at length with Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director Patrick Kelly and we share the assessment that our top priority must be to ensure accuracy and accountability for access to care for veterans in Minnesota and across the country. To be clear, Sec. Shinseki’s resignation is only a needed first step so we can move forward, address the systemic failures, and restore faith to the American people that we will keep our promises made to America’s heroes and provide them with the health care they deserve.”*

Note: Earlier today, Congressman Kline met by phone with Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director Patrick Kelly to discuss VA issues nationwide, receive an update on recent VA audits of the Minneapolis system, and to conduct oversight for Minnesota veterans on wait times and access to care issues.

John Kline is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps whose wife is a retired Army nurse and son has served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee, and is the Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. He and his wife, Vicky, live in Burnsville.